



For Immediate Release

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What's New in Indiana Tourism for 2010

Indianapolis (February 10, 2010) – As travelers look for unique experiences close to home, Indiana is offering great new ways to Restart Your Engines in 2010. The best way to plan a getaway to Indiana is by visiting the state's official tourism Web site, VisitIndiana.com. From deals and discounts to festival and event listings, VisitIndiana.com helps travelers find things to do across the state and offers money-saving opportunities. VisitIndiana.com is also home to the Indiana Insider blog, featuring "must see" travel destinations written by people who have been there.

Here is a sample of some new tourism opportunities in Indiana for 2010:

Abraham Lincoln Exhibits at Indiana State Museum

The Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis will open two major Abraham Lincoln exhibitions on his birthday, February 12, 2010.

The Library of Congress *With Malice Toward None: Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition* will travel to just five U.S. cities and includes the Bible upon which Lincoln, and later Barack Obama, took the oath of office; the contents of his pocket from the night he was assassinated; plus documents and correspondence from his political career. This exhibition will be open in Indianapolis until April 11.

The museum's own *With Charity for All: the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection* opens at the same time but continues through July 25. It features items the museum and the Allen County Public Library received when the state was gifted the full \$20 million Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, reportedly the world's largest private collection of Lincoln personal and presidential memorabilia. Among the more than 20,000 items in the collection are signed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment; three-dimensional artifacts including Lincoln's wallet and a chair he sat in for some of his most famous photographs; artwork; thousands of documents; photographs; prints and rare books. Indianamuseum.org

A Wild Water Coaster Debuts

Holiday World & Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Indiana, introduces its newest ride to the public on May 14. **Wildebeest** will be the world's longest water coaster, part of the Splashin' Safari section of the park. This \$5.5 million addition is one-third of a mile long and will thrill riders for two-and-a-half splashing minutes of hills, drops, twists and turns. Wildebeest begins with a conveyor ride up the water coaster's lifthill. Following the four-story drop at a 45-degree angle, linear induction motors (LIMs) will propel the four-person rafts up seven additional hills, through three tunnels (two of them underground) and around a helix. Wildebeest will cover more than two acres. Holidayworld.com

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See the Jaguar Cubs at the Mesker Park Zoo

The Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville is home to a pair of adorable cubs born at the zoo in September 2009. The two female baby jaguars, named Zimba and Maya, are on exhibit in Amazonia Forest of Riches, an indoor tropical forest experience that opened in 2008. The birth of the cubs highlights the success of the Zoo's breeding program. As of 2007, there were only about 44 jaguars in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Jaguar Species Survival Plan (SSP) Program. Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden is one of only 19 zoos in the country participating in the Jaguar SSP Program. In 2009, the Mesker Park Zoo set an attendance record with 202,224 guests, an increase of 12 percent over 2008. Meskerparkzoo.com; Meskerjagcam.com.

Charley Creek Inn Welcomes Visitors

Located in the heart of historic Downtown Wabash, the Charley Creek Inn will open in 2010 as a boutique hotel in a renovated historic building originally built in 1920. After a two-year restoration, the Charley Creek Inn is the perfect place to rediscover history, romance, culture and the arts. The inn boasts 30 guest rooms and suites with 20th century décor and 21st century amenities. Guests will feel right at home with on-site dining and shopping, state of the art meeting and event facilities, fitness room, and nearby museums, parks, attractions, and events. Charleycreekinn.com

The Inn at Irwin Gardens

In a city known for its diverse architecture, the newly-opened Inn at Irwin Gardens in downtown Columbus is a perfect fit for travelers seeking unique lodging. Guests have a rare opportunity to experience early 20th century luxury and culture while enjoying contemporary amenities. This magnificent home exemplifies quality craftsmanship. Guests can also wander through the beautiful gardens, a secluded area perfect for reading, a romantic glass of wine, or a picnic. Irwingardens.com

Indiana Historical Society Unveils New *Indiana Experience*

Opening March 20, the much-anticipated *Indiana Experience* is designed to make the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in Indianapolis a visitor destination. New interactive and high-technology experiences will connect visitors with Indiana's rich heritage experience. Ongoing elements of the *Indiana Experience* include "You Are There," featuring three-dimensionally reconstructed historic photographs that include first-person interpreters, allowing visitors to step into another era. Other elements include Destination Indiana, the History Lab, and a renovated Cole Porter Room. Indianahistory.org.

Indiana's Wine Industry Expects More Growth

Several new Hoosier wineries opened in 2009, bringing the total number of wineries in Indiana to 43. And, the Indiana Wine Grape Council expects to see up to seven more wineries open for business in 2010. Indiana's winemaking history goes back to 1802, before California's legendary wine industry was established. A great way to explore Indiana is by following three wine trails: Indiana Wine Trail, Indy Wine Trail and Uplands Wine Trail. In November 2009, the Indiana Wine Grape Council announced Indiana's first signature wine – Traminette – which is being produced by nearly half of Indiana's wineries. Traminette is a hybrid grape which ideal for growing in Indiana's soil. Indianawines.org.

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Cheetahs Arrive at the Indianapolis Zoo

The Indianapolis Zoo opens its newest exhibit on Saturday, May 29 – *Cheetah: The Race for Survival*. Cheetahs are admired for their speed and grace, but face an uncertain future as their numbers are dwindling. There are conservationists working diligently every day to preserve the cheetah, and the Indianapolis Zoo is working with one of the best known of them on this exhibit. Dr. Laurie Marker is founder and executive director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund, which reaches out from its Namibian headquarters around the world to tell the story of the cheetah and its fight to live on. Not only did Dr. Marker assist the Indianapolis Zoo in designing the over 100,000 square foot exhibit space, her organization will benefit directly from parts of the exhibit that illustrate the work the Fund is doing to save wild cheetahs. *Cheetah: A Race for Survival* is a gift of Polly Hix and Tony Fair, and in partnership through a conservation education gift from The Tony Stewart Foundation. Indianapoliszoo.com

Historic Train in Jasper

After successful Ride & Dine events in late 2009, the *Spirit of Jasper* train ride returns with more opportunities in 2010. Beginning in the spring, the Spirit of Jasper will offer more Ride & Dine events, as well as a weekly train ride to French Lick. Guests ride in style on three beautifully renovated, climate-controlled lounge cars complete with restrooms and comfortable seating. An official announcement of the train's schedule is expected soon. Visitduboiscounty.com

Renovations at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Fort Wayne Museum of Art is scheduled to reopen in late March 2010 with the addition of 10,000 square feet of new gallery space. The expansion project will help the museum fill gaps in its permanent collection of American art through support for future acquisitions and gallery space for additional exhibitions. The project will also include a print study room to display the museum's extensive print collection. The need for expansion and renovation is in part driven by the increasing educational outreach programs by FWMoA to both children and adults. The museum also aims to exhibit more of its own permanent collection as well as other outstanding traveling exhibitions. Fwmoa.org.

Feel the Beat at Rhythm! Discovery Center

Rhythm! Discovery Center is an exciting new extension of the Percussive Arts Society which recently relocated its administrative offices to Indianapolis. The center, which opened in November 2009, interprets the role of rhythm and percussion in music and culture through dynamic educational experiences. Interactive exhibits and hands-on opportunities help illustrate rhythm, its role in society, and its connections to daily life. Rhythm! is an integral part of the Percussive Arts Society, whose mission is to advance the awareness of percussion education, research, performance and appreciation throughout the world. Rhythmdiscoverycenter.org.